

Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (A.R.I.D.E.)

The curriculum is designed to be delivered as a 16-hour stand-alone course. The program of instruction is intended for delivery to as many of the nation's traffic law enforcement officers as possible. This curriculum is designed to help those officers become more proficient at detecting; apprehending, testing and prosecuting impaired drivers. The module's subject matter relates to two curriculums, the "Standardized Field Sobriety Testing" and "Drug Evaluation and Classification."

A qualified DRE is a specially skilled individual who can examine a person suspected of drug impairment and determine, with a high degree of accuracy, the broad category (or combination of categories) of drugs causing the impairment. A DRE does their specialized work only after a suspect has been apprehended (for DWI or some other offense), and only when there is probable cause to continue with an investigation.

This course will offer additional information to law enforcement officers on detecting impairment caused by more than just alcohol. Often times law enforcement officers that have not received advanced or in-service training regarding drug impairment tend to not be able to identify these characteristics; therefore they will release an impaired driver. Once an officer completes the training he/she will be more proficient with the 3 battery of tests (Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus, Walk and Turn, One Leg Stand), as well as a broader knowledge of drug impairment indicators. The law enforcement officer will also be more familiar with the DRE program and its function. This will facilitate better communication and transfer of critical roadside indicators of impairment to the evaluating DRE officer for a more complete and accurate assessment of the impairment.

For whom is the training intended?

This module is designed primarily for law enforcement officers that meet the IACP/NHTSA National Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Program Standards, including a proficiency test, and who have successfully completed an IACP/NHTSA approved training course.

The officer must be able to administer and interpret the horizontal gaze nystagmus (HGN) test for alcohol-impaired suspects. The student should be fully conversant with the procedural "mechanics" of HGN with the three clues of HGN and with the interpretation of those clues for assessing alcohol impairment. A major focus of this module is on the examination of a drug-impaired suspect's eyes. The procedures for those eye examinations derive largely from HGN procedures.

Students should be a State Certified or Commissioned law enforcement officer in a full time paid capacity and/or prosecutors responsible for the detection, arrest, and prosecution of DWI drivers. Officers and Prosecutors selected to attend this training should be aware of the hazards caused by impaired drivers, motivated to arrest and prosecute impaired drivers, and their duty assignments will enable them to spend the time required to process DWI offenders.

Students applying to or scheduled to attend should be familiar with the extent of the drug impaired driving problem, must have successfully completed the basic Standardized Field Sobriety Testing course.

This course was not designed to be offered in a basic academy to new police recruits. This is an intermediate level course designed to offer more than a basic understanding of the impairing effects of drugs (Illicit and Licit), alcohol, and/or the combination of both.